Revenues and Receipts to Local Governments

This Alternative would have no significant impact on revenues generated or receipts to local governments.

Summary

This Alternative would increase direct livestock earnings from the existing situation by $17,300 in the short-term and by $110,600 in the long-term. This, however, represents only a gain of 0.02 to 0.1 percent in the PRA farm earnings. Direct recreation earnings would increase from the existing situation by $49,500, or a gain of 0.1 percent in the PRA retail trade earnings. Direct lumber and wood earnings would be decreased from the existing situation by $23,700. In the long-term, the capital value of AUMs could be increased by as much as $1.3 million. Improvements needed to implement this Alternative would cost $365,100.

Access

Under Alternatives B through E, obtaining legal public access to approximately 37,300 acres of public land (17 percent of the PRA) and marking boundaries of the public lands would ensure the continuation of present public recreational activities. Problems with trespass would diminish and visitor management would improve. Upgrading of some of the access roads would have both positive and negative effects depending on the degree of upgrading needed, extent, and location (see Map 8).

Additional access would have a slight adverse impact because of chance of littering and some ORV use outside of designated roads and trails.

ALTERNATIVE C

Minerals Management

Alternative C has impacts which are beneficial to mineral availability.

Solid Leasable Minerals

Lands open for solid mineral leasing total 604,064 acres, or 94 percent of the total acres administered for solid leasable minerals (see Table 4.1). Under this Alternative, 38,895 acres (6 percent) are closed to solid mineral leasing for the protection of wildlife refuges, recreation, watershed, and cultural values (same as Alternative A). Of the total 38,895 acres closed to leasing, 5,280 acres have a low potential for leasing and the remainder have no potential. The land closures would not significantly affect the availability of lands for solid leasable mineral exploration and development. Less than 3 percent of the total lands open to leasing are currently under lease.

The status of the active, inactive, and proposed mining operations would not change under Alternative C. The phosphate ore production from those lands administered by BLM (not including U.S. Forest Service lands) during the life of this RMP would total about 4.5 million tons (same as Alternative A). This production represents a commitment of resources, but is not significant when compared to the leased phosphate resource base of 554 million tons.

The impacts from phosphate prospecting and exploration would be minimal and short-term due to existing mitigation measures, State and Federal regulations, and site-specific environmental requirements.

Fluid Leasable Minerals

Oil and Gas/Geothermal

The lands open to oil and gas leasing total 361,508 acres, or 92 percent of the total land administered for oil and gas. This is 7,000 acres more than Alternative A (Table 4.1). The lands open to geothermal leasing total 355,566 acres, or 92 percent of the total land administered for geothermal resources. This is also 7,000 acres more than Alternative A (Table 4.1, Appendices: Map 4, Alternative C).

NSO stipulations would occur on 28,921 acres, or 7 percent of the total area administered for both fluid minerals. This Alternative includes 4,100 additional acres with NSO stipulations to protect recreation, watershed, and cultural resource values. Approximately 7,000 acres would be opened to leasing in the Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge Buffer Zone. (Appendices: Map 4 and Map 10.)

Geothermal potential is low in all of the PRA and is not affected by this Alternative.

Locatable Minerals

Lands open and closed to mining claim location are the same as Alternative A. (Appendices: Map 4, Alternative C, and Map 11.)

The lands open to mining claim location total 330,250 acres (85 percent) (Table 4.1). There are no Congressional withdrawals affecting location. Executive branch closures total 51,015 acres. BLM closures total 6,196 acres, and include 4,688 acres with high potential and 594 acres with moderate potential for locatable minerals.

There are no stipulations which would significantly affect exploration activities. Environmental assessments would be written for plans of operation filed under 43 CFR 3802/3809.

Mineral Materials

The lands open to mineral materials disposal total 313,788 acres, or 81 percent of the total land administered for mineral materials (Table 4.1). This is 5,069 acres less than would be available under Alternative A. These acres consist of 2,706 acres of ACECs, 977 acres of RNAs, and 1,386 acres of communications sites and public water reserves (Appendices: Map 4, Alternative C and Map 12). A total of 73,673 acres would be closed to mineral material disposal for the protection of recreation, watershed, and cultural resource values.

Alternative C also would include the following additional impacts on minerals from proposed management activities:

1. A total of 23,098 acres of public land would be disposed of through sales and exchanges. This would have little impact to the minerals program due to the low mineral potential associated with these acres.

2. A total of 950 acres would be closed to mineral exploration on a seasonal basis to protect sensitive soils (32 less than Alternative A).

3. A total of 130,000 acres would have seasonal restrictions to protect wildlife (same as Alternative A).

4. A total of 2,706 acres of Area of Critical Environmental Concern would require filing a plan of operation in accordance with 43 CFR 3809 for any locatable mining proposed, even if the area of disturbance is less than 5 acres.

Lands

Under Alternative C, 23,098 acres would be identified for disposal from Federal ownership. The remainder of the public land in the PRA would be retained. The lands identified for potential disposal would have to meet screening criteria (see Standard Operating Procedures, Part I) that would eliminate the likelihood of significant adverse environmental impacts.

Approximately 11,338 acres would be closed to right-of-way development to protect wilderness values. Another 31,622 acres would have special stipulations to protect watershed and wildlife values.

Acquisition of 11,647 acres of private land and an estimated 15,720 acres of State land is proposed to support range, mineral, and other resource programs. This would be done mainly through the land exchange program.

Approximately 1,270 acres would remain under lease or permit for the protection of recreation sites (e.g., yurt system, ski area).

The impacts associated with this Alternative would be similar to Alternative A, but to a greater scale. This Alternative would increase the local property tax revenue base more than any other Alternative. The overall impact to management efficiency would be adverse because of the disruption and dislocation that would affect people currently authorized to use the land.

Range Management

Under this Alternative, the stocking rate would be 31,251 AUMs. This is a 23.1 percent increase from the current 5-year average of 24,061 AUMs and a 7 percent increase from the current active preference of 29,151 AUMS. The long-term stocking rate would be 36,990 AUMs. This is a 35 percent increase from the initial stocking rate of 24,061 AUMs. Under this Alternative, there will be no unallotted acres. The short-term (3 -5 years) impact of permitting livestock on former unallotted acres would be limited to some noticeable utilization on key livestock forage; however, the use would be minimal. The long-term (5+ years) impact will reveal that these areas should stabilize for the most part at the mid and late seral (fair and good) ecological condition.

The grazing preference on the public lands identified for disposal, would be decreased when those lands are transferred out of Federal ownership. Appendix A, Table A.2 gives detailed information on disposal category.

Under this Alternative, approximately 50,600 acres are scheduled for allotment management plan development. This would involve 16,110 acres of brush control, 1,490 acres of brush control/seeding, 76 water developments, 44.75 miles of fencing, and 800 acres of former agricultural trespass seeded to native range. The brush control would change approximately 50 percent of the 16,110 acres of that are classified early and mid seral (poor and fair) and disturbed to late seral (good). The seeding would change 1,490 acres of mid and early seral to disturbed. Approximately 800 acres of former agricultural trespass land would be restored to native range.

Under this Alternative, there is no management action scheduled to improve riparian habitat. 64.04 miles would remain in its present stable condition, while the following 29.75 miles of stream be expected to continue in a downward trend.

	Miles	Allotment		Miles	Allotment
Graehl	0.90	4005	Unnamed Tribe. #3	0.50	4060
Horse Creek	0.60	4045	Lanes Creek	0.30	4120
Stump Creek	0.90	4018	Landers Creek	0.40	4236
Stump Creek	0.25	4045	Wolverine Creek	0.20	4092
Dairy Hollow	0.35	4407	Jones Creek	0.80	4423
Unnamed Tribe. #2	0.25	4346	Graves Creek	0.40	4112
Turner Canal	0.25	4117	Deadman Creek	0.25	4112

	Miles	Allotment		Miles	Allotment
Horse Creek	0.10	4332	Negro Creek	0.45	0006
Meadow Creek	0.40	4134	Negro Creek	0.25	4320
Sheep Creek	0.25	4160	Tolman Creek	0.45	4069
WF Sheep Creek	0.50	4185	Eighteen Mile Cr.	0.35	4162
Pegram Creek	0.40	4329	Eighteen Mile Cr.	0.25	4190
Road Hollow	0.70	4305	Blackfoot River	0.20	0006
Indian Creek	0.25	4167	Blackfoot River	2.05	4320
Indian Creek	0.80	4232	Blackfoot River	2.70	4320
Handman Hollow	0.25	4015	Blackfoot River	2.30	4112
Miles Canyon	0.40	4415	Blackfoot River	3.00	4320
Unnamed Tributary to Crow Creek	0.30	4269	Blackfoot River	1.90	4112
			Blackfoot River	0.20	4316
Tygee Creek	0.20	4129	Blackfoot River	0.90	4430
Pegram Creek	0.70	4122	Blackfoot River	0.50	4430
Fishhaven Creek	0.90	4125	Bear River	0.10	0023
Green Canyon	0.50	4053	Bear River	0.10	4036
Main Canyon	0.20	4256	Bear River	0.25	0036
			Bear River	0.60	4115

TOTAL: 29.75 miles

Since there are no allotment management plans identified in this Alternative, the short-term impacts throughout the 93.79 miles of stream would be minimal. However, a downward trend in negative composition and vigor would be noticeable. The long-term impacts would result in the following, especially with the 29.75 miles listed in this Alternative: streambank sluffing, annual removal of riparian (mesic) vegetation, more dry site (xeric) vegetation, and the increase of water temperature, sedimentation, and livestock fecal coliforms.

ORV activities would continue to have negative impacts (i.e., gates left open, fence cutting, harassment of livestock, decrease of vegetation, and hill/gully development promoting both on-site and off-site erosion) on livestock management throughout the PRA, especially within the following allotments:

1. Trail Creek Allotment #6098
2. Rapid Creek Allotment #6082
3. Bancroft Allotment #6032
4. Toponce Allotment #3342
5. Sheep Creek Hills Area
6. Bear Lake Plateau Area
7. Blackrock Allotment #6097

Under this Alternative, all of the above allotments, except Sheep Creek Hills and Bear Lake Plateau, are scheduled for allotment management plans. ORV activities would be specifically addressed within these areas.

Three RNAs totaling 307 acres would be fenced and grazing excluded. The fenced RNAs are: Dairy Hollow, Pine Gap, and Travertine Park.

Activities within the wildlife program do not negatively and/or postively impact the range management proposals within this Alternative. No problem can be found with the stocking rate between domestic livestock and big game animals.

The range and forestry programs are expected to exist in harmony. The only impact to livestock management would be positive since the removal of timber would increase favorable grass and browse species for livestock utilization.

The minerals program indicates that phosphate lease exist on 1,800.22 acres where BLM manages both surface and subsurface. The 1,800.22 acres are differentiated in the following manner:

		Acres
1.	Active (where active mining exists) Henry 80	80
2.	Inactive (where active mining has occurred) Stauffer 160 Woodall 370	530
3.	Undeveloped leases	1190.22
		1800.22

Currently, BLM has 80 acres within the active mining designations and 530 acres in the inactive designations, unallotted for grazing. The areas within the lease areas, however, have not been actively mined. There has been no loss of vegetation or soil disturbance.

The BLM has some Taylor Grazing Act Section 15 grazing leases scattered throughout the undeveloped lease areas (1,190.22 acres). No negative impacts from mining are anticipated to the range program for both the short-term (3-5 years) or long-term (5+ years).

If portions of the present undeveloped mining lease areas become active, the short-term impact to grazing would be negative since disturbed areas would virtually eliminate grazing. However, because of mitigating measures (seeding disturbed areas), the long-term impacts would be positive since the forage would be replaced.

Impacts to Vegetation

The long-term ecological range condition within the PRA under this Alternative would be .4 percent potential natural community; 68 percent late seral; 18 percent mid seral; 1.6 percent early seral; 2 percent rock and water.

The long-term trend would be 20 percent upward, 76 percent static and 4 percent downward.

Wildlife

With this Alternative emphasizing commodity production, the amount of satisfactory wildlife habitat would decline for elk, deer, sage grouse and sharp-tailed grouse. Land disposal actions would decrease winter range by 2,799 acres and sage and sharp-tailed grouse habitat by 1,610 and 120 acres respectively.

In addition, the amount of big game winter range in unsatisfactory condition would increase by 2,700 acres, resulting in the loss of an estimated 6 elk and 86 deer. These losses are .1 and .2 percent of the area's elk and deer herds, respectively. Bitterbrush plantings on 417 acres would increase carrying capacity in those areas, but would not have a significant impact on the overall big game populations.. Four miles of fence modification to ease big game movement on winter range is not expected to have a measurable effect on deer or elk numbers.

Satisfactory sage grouse habitat would decrease 4 percent. Sharp-tailed grouse habitat would remain essentially unchanged. Improved sage grouse distribution in an area of about 4,000 acres on the Bear Lake Plateau would result from the installation of two water facilities.

Waterfowl, primarily geese, will benefit from improved grazing management on 9 acres of riparian habitat. Four planned nesting platforms should increase goose production about 2 geese per platform per year.

Impacts from oil, gas, and geothermal exploration operations would be considered insignificant due to the restrictions and standard stipulations currently attached to exploration permits.

Positive impacts on wildlife from ORV closures are hard to define as they relate to kilocalories of energy saved in avoiding ORV users. It is assumed that energy saved results in increased survival, particularly during winter.

The range program is proposing 17,600 acres of brush control to increase livestock forage production. The proposed projects will affect 2,668 acres of big game winter range and 2,780 acres of sage grouse habitat. The impacts of the projects would be partially beneficial , e.g., increased grass and forb production and partially adverse, e.g., loss of cover and forage.

Recreation and Visual Resources

Adoption of the current ORV designations and visual resource management classes would maintain current trends in recreation use levels and opportunities. Table 4.2 lists visitor use day estimates for selected recreation activities in the PRA for this Alternative.

Motorized use will continue to occur randomly throughout the PRA and remain at nearly the current level. Use would be relatively light in most areas, with heavier activity occurring on public lands near Pocatello and where hunting opportunities are available during the open season. Seasonal ORV closures would continue to be made to protect wintering big game herds and eroding soils near Pocatello, but would have a slight impact on overall ORV recreation use.

The number of developed recreation sites would increase by the construction of 14 new access areas, campgrounds, and trailheads. These developments would help meet approximately 1.5 percent of the identified camping needs for the six counties in the PRA (1983 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan). Overall, site construction and development would increase recreation use of the public lands by an estimated 2,350 visitor use days. This increase would represent less than one percent of the total recreation use in the PRA. No mineral withdrawals are proposed for developed or potential recreation sites because the known mineral values are minimal. The potential loss of facilities to mining and mineral leasing activities is considered slight.

The Pocatello and Blackfoot River SRMAs would be designated under this Alternative. Emphasis would be given to managing ORV use in the Pocatello SRMA and water-based recreation in the Blackfoot River SRMA. A positive impact to recreation would result because priority for recreation funding, management, and staffing would be placed on the areas.

Visual resource management classes would establish objectives to protect the existing visual quality of important scenic and recreational areas of public lands (refer to Standard Operating Procedures, Visual Resources, Part I). A slight impact to visual resources is anticipated under this Alternative.

Recreation opportunities would remain on lands retained in Federal ownership. Public recreation uses would be eliminated on lands that are disposed of except when transferred to another public agency. The proposed disposals that would eliminate general public use would have only a slight impact on recreation opportunities. Proposed acquisition of lands along the Blackfoot River would have a positive impact on recreation. Blocking up Federal ownership would secure public access and use of the river system. Primary emphasis would be placed on managing those lands for recreation under the Blackfoot River SRMA.

Right-of-way development would have a moderate negative impact on visual resources. Utility corridors would be constructed in areas of high scenic value. These include the Blackfoot River, Wolverine Canyon, Garden Creek, Grays Lake, and proposed ACECs. However, Visual Resource Management Class II objectives for the areas would mitigate most of the overall impacts to visual resources.

The removal of timber and associated activities such as road building would improve access for recreationists. Generally, improved access would shift recreation opportunities and uses to less primitive forms. Hunting would increase slightly with better vehicle access as would motorized recreation and wood gathering. Most impacts would be slight because of the small areas involved in intensive forest management practices. However, a considerable impact would result in the Petticoat Peak area. If Congress decides that the area would not be designated as wilderness, the 2,559 acres of commercial timber would be available for sale. Removal of the timber and associated activities would impact both recreation opportunities and visual resources (see Eastern Idaho Wilderness EIS).

Cultural resource designations and management of specific sites for their educational, recreational, and interpretive values would have a positive impact to recreation use. Visitors would gain an appreciation and awareness of historic and prehistoric values of the public lands, thereby enhancing most recreation activities.

Streams would not be managed for improvement of fisheries. A net decrease in fisheries would result. A decrease of 1,350 visitor use days of fishing use is estimated because of the decline in fisheries, particularly along the Blackfoot River system.

Conflicts between livestock and recreation visitors would continue in unfenced camping areas and along fishing streams. These conflicts can range from moderate to considerable depending on the particular situation and visitors involved.

Management actions to improve wildlife habitat would not be undertaken. Deer and elk populations would decrease resulting in a slight to moderate impact to big game hunting. A decrease of 1,948 visitor use days of hunting use would result. Emergency ORV closures would continue in areas where big game winter. These closures have a slight adverse impact on winter recreation use. Abundant opportunities exist for snowmobiling outside of wildlife winter ranges.

There would be no impacts under Alternative C to recreation use and visual resources from soils and watershed management actions when soil erosion rates are less then 5 tons/acre/year.

Mining and mineral leasing activities would impact dispersed recreation by disrupting the natural appearance of the landscape and by shifting the recreation opportunity setting from the more natural appearing to the developed type. However, since the extent, location, and nature of future operations is not known, the actual impacts cannot be predicted. In general, mineral leasing impacts to recreation and visual resources would be lessened because of restrictions and stipulations on leasing activities. Recreation areas, streams, and other water resources important to recreational and scenic values would be protected from leasing activities with a NSO stipulation. Overall, the impacts to recreation and visual resources would be slight to moderate from mining and mineral leasing activities.

Obtaining and improving public access to public lands and marking boundaries would have a considerable beneficial impact on recreational opportunities over the long-term. Right-of-way and easement acquisition to approximately 37,300 acres of landlocked public lands would ensure access for hunting, fishing, and other activities. Problems with trespass would diminish and visitor management would be improved. Overall, more recreational opportunities would be provided on levels not being used because of access problems.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

Under this Alternative, the Stump Creek, Downey Watershed and Travertine Park ACECs, totaling 4,506 acres of public land, would be designated. Priority for management would be given to the three areas.

Unrestricted ORV use would have moderate to considerable impacts to natural values in the proposed Travertine Park (223 acres) and Stump Creek ACECs. Travertine Park contains remnant plant associations and geologic features that would be damaged by wheeled vehicle travel. The winter snowmobile closure of Stump Creek would protect wintering big game herds, but unrestricted wheeled vehicle use would moderately impact forage for elk. The present limited designation in the Downey Watershed will help protect important watershed resources from damage by ORV use.

Livestock grazing would continue as in the current situation with no restrictions in the proposed Downey Watershed and Travertine Park ACECs. Grazing would continue to have a moderate impact on plant compositions and soil cover and would degrade water quality in the Downey Watershed area. Livestock use in the Travertine Park ACEC proposal would have a moderate to considerable impact on remnant plant associations and travertine geologic features. No significant impacts are anticipated to the Stump Creek area from grazing use.

Mining and mineral leasing activities could adversely affect wildlife habitat in the Stump Creek area, watershed values in the Downey Watershed area, and remnant plant associations and geologic features in the Travertine Park area. The Downey Watershed area is closed to mining claims and has low potential for

non-energy and energy leasable minerals and low potential for salable minerals. Therefore, impacts are not anticipated from mining and mineral leasing activities to the Downey Watershed area. The Stump Creek area has a low potential for locatable minerals, low for salable, and high for leasables. Oil and gas exploration and development in the Stump Creek area would have a slight to moderate impact on wildlife habitat even with standard operating procedures for the oil and gas activities.

Research Natural Area (RNAs)

RNA designations would be made for all seven of the PNAs, totaling 1,494 acres. Plant associations of state and national importance would be recognized through designation, but some management actions would not be applied to protect RNA values. This is because commodity production is emphasized in this Alternative.

Unrestricted ORV use would affect remnant plant associations in the Cheatbeck Canyon, Dairy Hollow, Formation Cave, Pine Gap, and Travertine Park RNA proposals. These areas are accessible to ORV use and restrictions on motorized travel would not be made. Moderate impacts to plant communities could result. The limited ORV designation of the Robbers Roost area and the generally inaccessible nature of the Oneida Narrows area would prevent ORV use from damaging plant habitats.

Livestock grazing would be eliminated from the Dairy Hollow, Pine Gap, and Travertine Park by fencing the areas. Changes in plant composition and cover would be left to natural processes resulting in a positive impact to the proposed RNAs. The remaining four RNA proposals are generally inaccessible to livestock grazing and impacts to plant communities are anticipated to be slight.

Mining and mineral leasing activities could adversely affect plant communities in the seven RNA proposals. The Cheatbeck Canyon, Dairy Hollow, Formation Cave, and Pine Gap areas all have high potential for leasable fluid minerals and impacts would be moderate to considerable. Impacts from leasable activities to the remaining three RNA proposals are considered slight. High potential for locatable minerals is found in the Oneida Narrows and Robbers Roost areas and impacts could be moderate to considerable. Impacts from locatable mining activities to the remaining five RNA proposals would be slight. All RNA proposals would be closed to mineral material sales and no impacts would result.

Cultural Resource Management

Adverse cultural resource site impacts would increase significantly under this Alternative. Dispersed livestock grazing impacts would increase in proportion to increased (27 percent) allotment use levels and reduced acreage restrictions. Increased vegetation treatment acreage and range improvement

projects would also adversely affect cultural resource sites. Surface modifications and horizontal artifact displacement would increase on 25 documented sites and an unknown number of unidentified, unrecorded sites. Acres open to ORV use would increase. Wheeled vehicle operation would have direct and indirect impacts on cultural resource sites. ORVs would break and displace artifacts at open, surface sites. They would also provide access to once remote prehistoric sites and historic structures. Unauthorized use and vandalism would increase. Reduced restrictions on minerals and lands activities could increase inadvertent impacts on cultural resources and increase mitigation workloads. Short-term impacts would be severe. Long-term impacts would remove artifacts or data which survived initial production increases.

Standard operating procedures would identify and mitigate impacts on area cultural resource sites. If mitigation is adequately funded, extensive cultural resource site salvage would mean extreme irreversible and irretrievable resource commitments. When sites are salvaged, they are no longer available for future archaeological field research. Major site elements may be recorded and other data recovered, but data may be lost which would recovered with improved methodology or technology.

Cultural resource management would emphasize educational and socio-cultural uses. Prehistoric and historic management plans would be prepared for sites which represent unique site types or reflect regional prehistoric and historical heritage. NSO and Sensitive Area designations would protect sites on 1,150 acres (refer to Table S.1).

Forest Management

Under this Alternative 9,949 acres of commercial forest land would be available for restricted forest management. An additional 808 acres would be available with no restrictions. This would result in a potential sustainable allowable cut of approximately 3.0 MMBF/decade. Also, under this Alternative 26,706 acres of woodland would be available for the limited harvest of minor forest products. This would include sales of posts/poles, firewood, and hobby wood.

Harvest practices such as clearcut, shelterwood, and selective cut would influence the amount of vegetation cover on approximately 40 acres each year. These harvest activities would benefit forest resources by regenerating the stand, reducing insects and disease through removal of infected trees, and improving growth and production of residual trees.

Forest development practices such as thinning, planting, and use of herbicides would be implemented on available commercial forest lands. The beneficial impact of these silvicultural techniques would be improved stocking levels and growth rates and a decrease in insect and disease problems.

Under this Alternative, 3,746 acres of commercial forest land would be removed from the timber base due to proposed land sale or exchange under the lands and realty program. Approximately 961 acres of woodland would be removed from the woodland base for the same reason. Juniper cutting areas proposed in the soils program would remove an additional 1,000 acres form the woodland base.

The reduction in commercial forest land would have a moderate adverse impact on the availability of sawtimber, fuelwood, and other forest products, resulting in a reduction of the annual allowable cut by 20 percent.

Grazing would influence forest management activities by endangering the establishment of regeneration. This influence can be partially mitigated through control of season of use and livestock distribution.

Riparian And Water Quality

Road and drill pad construction for oil and gas exploration and phosphate mining would adversely affect surface water by changing flow patterns and water quality. Increased runoff and erosion on disturbed land would cause some increased rates of suspended and bed load-sediment transport in stream channels.

Timber sale activity would increase erosion and cause a subsequent increase in sedimentation of streams and a decrease in water quality, mainly from road building activity.

Under this Alternative, the limited amounts of increased surface disturbance and the use of best management practices and standard operating procedures, in conjunction with mineral development and timber harvesting, would result in increases in sedimentation and decreases in water quality so small that they could not be distinguished from the normal observed seasonal fluctuations.

By the use of standard operating procedures and best management practices (see Part I), the BLM will meet or exceed Idaho State water quality standards. Monitoring will be conducted to check compliance and effectiveness of these practices and procedures, and they will be refined and modified to protect beneficial uses such as fisheries and drinking water.

Under this Alternative, 17.86 miles of riparian habitat would be proposed for disposal. This is approximately 14 percent of the riparian habitat in the PRA. Of this number, 3.60 miles of stream were inventoried and found to be in fair to good condition. In addition, 40 acres of marsh-wetland and 3.3 acres of Bear Lake shoreline would be proposed for disposal.

Riparian vegetation, water quality, and streambank condition were factors considered in evaluating riparian habitat.

There are 34.15 miles of riparian habitat with potential to be improved by management prescription. Under this Alternative, no management action would be taken to improve riparian habitat.

A total of 64.04 miles of stream would remain in its present stable condition. A total of 29.75 miles of riparian habitat would be expected to continue in a downward trend. These streams are currently in fair or good condition and need management changes which would not be implemented under this Alternative (see Appendix C). Further degradation from heavy grazing by livestock could result in elimination of riparian areas by lowering of the water table and replacement of riparian (mesic) vegetation with more dry-site (xeric) vegetation.

Approximately 20.55 miles of fishery streams would continue to deteriorate, while 31.27 miles of fishery streams would remain unchanged.

Soils and Watershed Management

About 15,400 acres of additional grazing lands would be allotted for grazing under this Alternative. This would increase overall erosion, but this additional erosion is expected to be kept within tolerable limits by proper stocking rates and grazing management systems.

About 163,150 acres of public lands having soils sensitive to erosion are subject to indiscriminate use by ORVs in this Alternative. This includes 8,500 acres in the Pocatello Off-Road Vehicle Plan for Bannock County.

Oil and gas exploration activity on sensitive soils would be controlled by special stipulations and provisionary options provided in the seasonal and standard lease stipulations.

About 1,000 acres of juniper thinning would stimulate understory plant growth and reduce annual erosion rates approaching 5 tons per acre per year.

Reclamation of 310 acres of Woodall Mountain mining area would stabilize mine tailings and reduce erosion rates several tons per acre per year.

About 867 acres of agriculture trespass lands would not be restored to native range, thereby, not allowing for the reduction of erosion.

About 808 acres of scattered commercial forest acres without restricted management practices would have some short-term and long-term erosion impacts. These impacts would be mitigated after a site-specific environmental assessment is prepared.

Full fire suppression for the PRA would give the area the best option for reduced erosion following wildfires.

Several land treatment improvements are planned for this Alternative. Brush control by fire or range plowing would have high soil erosion impacts, both short and long-term, on 5,500 acres and moderate-to-high impacts on 12,100 acres. Brush control by spraying or other mechanical means would have moderate soil erosion impacts on 5,500 acres and slight-to-moderate impacts on 12,100 acres of land in this Alternative.

Plowing and seeding of 120 acres in the Aspen Road allotment, which is part of the 17,600 identified above, would have high short-term erosion impacts. Planned plowing and seeding in all other allotments would have moderate-to-high short-termed erosion effects and slight-to-moderate long-term effects measured in tons per acre per year erosion.

Small wildlife and range development improvements would generally have only limited short-term erosion impacts. The impacts on sensitive soil areas along with mitigation measures to reduce these impacts would be addressed in individual activity plans and environmental assessments as the RMP is implemented.

Economic Conditions

Native Americans

There would be no economic impact on Native Americans under this Alternative.

Minerals

This Alternative would have no economic impact on the minerals industry in the economic region.

Livestock

Initially, there would be 31,251 AUMs available for livestock under this Alternative. This would generate direct earnings of $677,100. The total economic impact would be $1.7 million (including the multiplier effect). These levels of earnings would represent 0.6 and 0.1 percent, respectively, of the farm and total earnings (1983) in the PRA.

This level of AUMs would generate direct employment of 29 jobs. Including the multiplier effect, the total number of jobs generated would be 86.

In the short-term, there would be a gain of capital value of between $117,000 and $526,000.

In the long-term (15 years), there would be 36,990 AUMs available for livestock under this Alternative. This would generate direct earnings of $801,500. The total economic impact would be $2.0 million (including the multiplier effect). These would represent 0.7 and 0.2 percent, respectively, of the 1983 farm and total PRA earnings.

This level of AUMs would generate direct employment of 35 jobs. Including the multiplier effect, the total number of jobs generated would be 101.

In the long-term, there would be a gain of capital value of between $436,000 and $2.0 million.

Appendix E shows how these earnings, employment, and capital value estimates were made.

Recreation

Recreation activities would generate expenditures of $1.8 million with this Alternative. Utilizing the earnings to gross output ratio for the retail trade industry, this would convert to direct earnings of $700,600. This would represent .5 percent of the PRA retail trade earnings. The multiplier effect would increase total earnings to $1.5 million. This would be .1 percent of the total PRA earnings.

The direct earnings would generate 64 jobs in the retail trade industry, while the total earnings would account for 110 jobs spread throughout the local economy.

Appendix E shows how these earnings and employment estimates were made.

Lumber and Wood Products

Under this Alternative, there would be 300 thousand board feet of timber harvested annually. This would lead to direct earnings of $71,100. This would represent 0.03 percent of the 1983 PRA manufacturing earnings. The total earnings (including the multiplier effect) would be $157,500, which would be .01 percent of the total PRA earnings in 1983.

Direct employment generated would be three jobs. Including the multiplier effect, the total employment generated would be seven jobs.

Project Costs

Range improvements necessary to implement this Alternative would cost $382,000. Wildlife improvements would cost $69,000. The cost of constructing recreation facilities (recreation sites, multiple use trails) would be $121,600 under this Alternative. The total cost of these improvements would be $572,600.

Revenues and Receipts to Local Governments

This Alternative would have no significant impact on revenues generated or receipts to local governments.